



Kansas Plant Pest Alert

Kansas Department of Agriculture • Plant Protection and Weed Control • (785) 564-6698 • agriculture.ks.gov

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

What is a brown marmorated stink bug?

The brown marmorated stink bug is a native of Japan, Korea and China. It was first reported in the United States in Pennsylvania in 1998.

This insect invades houses in the fall and overwinters in large groups. They do not do any damage while in or on homes, but many people find them unpleasant to look at and they emit a strong odor when disturbed.



Adult brown marmorated stink bug feed on a peach in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Characteristic damage is evident. Photo courtesy of Gary Bernon, USDA-APHIS.

The most important concern is that the insect can become a serious pest to crops. They use their sucking mouthparts to feed on a wide variety of plants. Reported hosts are apple, peach, pear, citrus, figs, mulberries, soybean, corn, butterfly bush, Paulownia and other ornamental plants.

Feeding by this insect causes small spots of necrotic tissue on the outer surface of fruit and leaves. Cat facing can also occur on fruits like

apple and peach.

Economic Importance

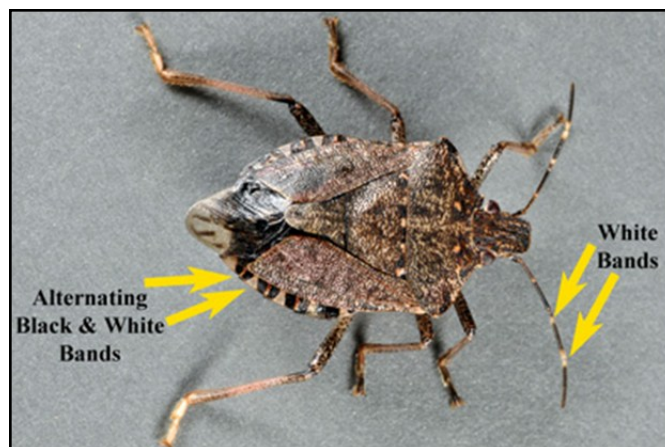
We are concerned about brown marmorated stink bug because it is a pest of many important crops in its native range. It attacks shade and fruit trees, vegetables and legumes. It will feed on flowers, stems and pods of several legumes. The disfiguration it causes to fruit crops may make them unmarketable.

This pest is likely to invade agricultural areas, and it poses a risk to various crops as it expands its range. Up to five generations of this insect are seen in southern China each year, a pattern that could be expected in the southern U.S.

Identification

The brown marmorated stink bug has a shield-shaped body and emits a pungent odor when disturbed. It has a marbled brown, 12-17 mm long (1/2-inch) body with alternating dark and light bands across the last two segments that appear as a single white band in both nymphs and adults. The antennae also have an alternating dark and light pattern.

Species that can be confused with the brown marmorated stink bug are the brown stink bug, the green stink



Key identification characteristics, both abdominal and antennal, of the brown marmorated stink bug.

bug, leaf-footed bugs, boxelder bugs and other similar hemipterans.



If you find evidence of brown marmorated stink bug, contact the Kansas Department of Agriculture at (785) 564-6698.